

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 ACDE-00 AECE-00 USIE-00 AEC-05

CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-04 L-01 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01

PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00

RSC-01 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /068 W

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FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0571

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MBFR VIENNA 0372

FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: SUPPLEMENT TO CONTINGENCY PRESS
TALKING POINTS ON EASTERN FIRST STEP PROPOSAL

REF: MBFR VIENNA 0368

1. IT IS SUGGESTED THAT ADDRESSEES MAY WISH TO DRAW
ON FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER TO SUPPLEMENT BACK-
GROUND CONTAINED IN REFTEL. THE PAPER HAS NOT YET
BEEN CLEARED WITH THE AD HOC GROUP, BUT WE WILL RAISE
IT WITH GROUP ON NOVEMBER 4.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

POSSIBLE PRESS QUESTION:

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ISN'T IT TRUE THAT THE EAST HAS FINALLY AGREED IN VIENNA TO ONE OF THE PRIMARY WESTERN DEMANDS, THAT IS THAT THE US AND THE USSR SHOULD REDUCE FIRST? ISN'T THIS AN IMPORTANT MOVE BY THE EAST?

POSSIBLE WESTERN REPLY:

1. THE EASTERN PROPOSAL IS NOT NEW AND NOT A BREAK-THROUGH.

2. WEHN THE SAME PROPOSAL WAS ADVANCED LAST JUNE, WE EXPLAINED WHAT WAS WRONG WITH IT: LIKE THE ORIGINAL NOVEMBER 8, 1974 WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL, IT STILL REQUIRES THE WEST EUROPEANS TO COMMIT THEMSELVES AS TO THE AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS BEFORE THE SOVIETS REDUCE ANY FORCES.

3. THE WEST EUROPEANS CANNOT DO THIS BECAUSE:

A. GIVEN COLD WAR HISTROY, SIZE OF SOVIET MILITARY RESOURCES, AND CONTINUING AMBIGUITY OF SOVIET INTENTIONS, THEY ARE UNDERSTANDABLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT ENTERING INTO LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS VIS-A-VIS THE SOVIET UNION REGARDING THEIR MILITARY FORCES.

B. MOREOVER, THE SITUATION OF MOST WESTERN EUROPEANS IS DIFFERENT FROM THAT OF THE SOVIETS. THEY ARE IN THE AREA; SOVIET UNION IS OUTSIDE. THEIR WHOLE FORCE STRUCTURE WOULD BE COVERED; SOVIET FORCES IN THE USSR WOULD NOT BE. REDUCTION FOR THE WESTERN EUROPEANS IS QUALITATIVELY DIFFERENT, WHILE SOVIET FORCES WOULD MERELY BE WITHDRAWN SHORT DISTANCE EASTWARD.

4. THEREFORE, THE WEST EUROPEANS ARE NOT WILLING TO COMMIT DEFINITELY THEMSELVES AS TO AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS UNTIL AFTER THE SOVIET UNION HAS AGREED TO AN OUTCOME FOR THE REDUCTION PROCESS THAT DEALS EFFECTIVELY WITH THE MAJOR GROUND FORCE DISPARITIES IN THE AREA AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS CARRIED OUT SIZEABLE REDUCTION OF ITS FORCES IN
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CENTRAL EUROPE.

5. THE CURRENT SOVIET PROPOSAL FOR INITIAL REDUCTIONS DOES NOT MEET THESE ALLIED INTERESTS. IT DIFFERS FROM ORIGINAL EASTERN PROPOSAL ONLY IN ONE MINOR RESPECT: ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING THE WESTERN EUROPEANS, WOULD COMMIT THEMSELVES AS TO THE SPECIFIC AMOUNT AND TIMING OF THEIR REDUCTIONS BEFORE ANY RE-

DUCTIONS WHATEVER TOOK PLACE. BUT IMPLEMENTATION WOULD
BE STAGED, WITH US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS TAKING PLACE
IN THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION YEAR
AND THOSE BY THE WESTERN EUROPEANS IN THE SECOND SIX
MONTHS.

6. IN OTHER WORDS, THE SOVIET UNION STILL WANTS THE
WESTERN EUROPEANS TO SIGN UP FOR REDUCTIONS BEFORE
THE SOVIET UNION GIVES THE NECESSARY PROOF OF ITS
GOOD FAITH. THEREFORE, AS WE HAVE TOLD THE SOVIETS
CLEARLY OVER THE PAST SIX MONTHS, THIS MINOR
CHANGE IN THEIR PROPOSAL DOES NOT MEET ESSENTIAL
ALLIED REQUIREMENTS.

END TEXT.RESOR

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